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MEASURES FOR CROP IMPROVEMENT IN RUMANIA

A decree of the Council of Ministers and of the Central Committee of the Rumanian Workers' Party, published on 6 June 1952, specifies measures to be taken for the improvement of crops. These measures, known as the agrominimum, include weeding, cultivation, thinning of plants, artificial pollination, use of fertilizer, irrigation, destruction of insects, and other methods. Artificial pollination of rye, corn, and sunflowers is required. Cotton is to be cultivated five times, and sumflowers, potatoes, and corn at least three.(1)

The value of cultivation and weeding was shown the peasant. It was stated that each cultivation of corn could add 400-500 kilograms per hectare to the yield. Thus three cultivations of a field of corn would add 1,200-1,500 kilograms per hectare of production. Artificial pollination would increase this still more. For example, a collective in Madaras, Bihor Region, achieved 4,000 kilograms of corn per hectare in 1951. Constant cultivation enabled a collective in Cosoreni, Islomita Region, to produce 3,200 kilograms per hectare in 1951 despite drought.(2)

An examination of the June 1952 Rumanian press gives some basis for judgment as to the success or failure of the agroministum. According to one source, "surprise raids" were carried out by committees sponsored by Scantela, official organ of the party, Romania Libera, organ of the people's councils, and by local newspapers. The first saids took place in Cluj, Iasi, Dolj, Ialomita, Teleorman, Mures, and Bihor region. Application of the agrominimum was found to be unsatisfactory, on the whole. Party organizations in Teleorman, Islamita, and other regions were called to task for poor support. Various kulaks were singled out as saboteurs. Committees distributed posphlets in various regions to explain the importance of the agrominimum. In Dol; Region the investigating committee found that new methods of planting and seeding were neither unferstood nor properly applied. Pensants persisted in using their old methods. On collectives where conditions could be controlled, yields of 2,000 kilograms of wheat and 3,050 kilograms of barley were expected, while on private holdings only 1,200 kilograms of wheat and 1,500 kilograms of barley could be expected.(3)

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A second cultivation of plants was being carried out in Arad, Timiscare, Bihor, and Bucharest regions, but was neglected in Constanta, Bacau, Solosani, and Teleorman regions, committees reported (2) early in June. By 21 June "trusts" (trusturi) and state farms in Bucharest, Constanta, Galeti, and Iasi Regions had finished cultivation and weeding.(4) At the end of the month Semistria reported that many executive committees of people's councils in Racau, Constanta, Rolj, Borosani, and Iasi regions had felled to mobilize peasants and had reglected to teach the value of cultivation and weeding.(5)

The survey by individual regions is as follows:

Bain Mara Region

Application of the agrominium in datu Mare Hayon was not successful up to 15 June. Thirteen out of 18 communes had not used new methods at all. In an effort to improve the situation authorities declared that any persent who permitted his fields to become overgrown with weeds would be declared a kulak.(6)

Cluj Region

Aind Rayon obtained emcellent recults by use of the agreeminium. (7)

Ared Region

On θ June conferences were held in 19 communes and on nine collective farms to give peasants a better knowledge of the agrominimum.(8)

Polj Region

Caracal Rayon applied the agrominium successfully. (9) By 14 June the rayon had cultivated its entire corn crop twice and other crops pertially for the second time. Beans, potatoes, and sunflowers were cultivated 50 percent for the second time. (10) Scanteia pointed out, however, that some corn had failed to grow at all because of faulty application of the new methods. (11) Corabia Rayon reported good results. (12) By the end of June, 1,002 hectares of harvested area had been destubbled. (13)

Telecoman Region

Crops were neglected in Teleorass Region. New techniques were not used. Cultivation was far in errears. First cultivation of corn was incomplete. Second cultivation in some areas had barely begun. Sumflowers were not cultivated in some sections. The cultivation and weeding of cotton, sugar beets, and other industrial plants were far beyond schedule. (14)

Bucharest Region

The agrominisms in Bucharest region as a whole was satisfactory.(15) Oltenita (16), Glurgiu (17), and Mihatlesti (18) rayons reported good results. The Enagov area was far behind, however, (19).

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Prahova Region

The entire Ploesti Rayon finished cultivation of winter and spring crops. A second cultivation was carried out on 968 hectares of corn and 373 hectares of sunflowers. Other aspects of the agreeminimum have been ignored by peacants. (20)

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Valces Region

In Rawmicul-Valcen Rayon cultivation made good progress. Rye was cruificially pollinized and fruit trees sprayed against caterpillars. (21)

Mures Region

Approximately 70,000 collectivists and working peasants in more than 200 communities in Gheorghieni, Ludus, Targul-Mures, and Tarnaveni rayons participated in discussions of new agricultural methods and the agrominimum.(22) The agrominimum in the Mures valley included crop rotation, fertilizer and use of fallow areas.(23) Cultivation and other methods in Targul-Mures and Ludus rayons proved successful.(24) By 10 June 97 percent of the agricultural area in Targul-Mures and Ludus rayons was cultivated once, and about one third had been cultivated twice. However, Rhegin and Sangeorgiul-de-Tadure legged behind. In Rhegin, only one third of the grain area had been cultivated. In one community of Sangeorgiul-de-Padure only 10 percent had been cultivated.(26)

Suceava Region

The agrominimum was not applied successfully in Campulung-Moldovenesc and Succesva rayons. (25)

Botcsani Region

Cultivation of crops was behind schedule in Botosani Region as of 11 June. First cultivation was only 49 percent completed, and second cultivation was only 5 percent completed. (26) Manure was used widely in Dorohoi Rayon. (27)

Insi Region

Application of the agrominimum in Iasi Region was led by 40 teachers from the Agronomical Institute of Iasi. Seven hundred men worked directly under their supervision. Inspections by committees showed that the agrominimum was successfully applied. Hew methods had been under investigation by the institute since 1950. The institute proved that 4,111 kilograms per hectare of corn could be produced where shallow disk destubbling was used instead of ploving. This method led to yields of 2,167 kilograms per hectare of winter wheat. Additional use of fertilizer by the institute resulted in an additional 809 kilograms per hectare of winter wheat. By using 30,000 kilograms of fertilizer per hectare, yields of 5,198 kilograms of corn were obtained. (28) The agrominimum was reported to be satisfactory in Codaesti Rayon. (29)

Barled Region

Artificial pollination was introduced throughout the region. State farms in Bogdana, Laza, and Zorleni devoted 30 hectares each to experiments with artificial pollination, manure, and chemical fertilizers. State farms in

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Voinesti used 171 heutares each; those in Vogdana, 102 hectares each; and those in Rargesti and Crivesti, 81 each. Collectives in Mitoe, Sargi, Dragueni, in Bernestt and Crivesti, by each. Collectives in mice, cargi, pragment, and other fillages followed suit.(30) In Barlad Rayon, second cultivation of corn and suiffewers, and artifical pollination of rye were carried out.(31) One community was found to be lagging behind, however. The Feople's Council of harlad Rayon discovered that the community of Ivesti had submitted false records. These records stated that the entire sunflower area had been cultivated. Rower, a spot check revealed that large areas were overgrown with weeds. Kulaks had interfered with the repair of machinery. The agreementation had not been applied at all and peasants had ignored propaganda brochures. (32)

Galati Region

In Macin, Faurei, Galati, and Tulcos rayons artificial collination of grain began by 13 June (33) In some areas winter wheat was cultivated a secon time. In Targu-Bujor Rayon sumflowers and corn were cultivated according to plan. (34)

Izlomita Region

In Calarasi Rayon sunflowers were cultivated for the third time by 12 June. (35) Areas where potatoes had been gathered were covered with manure. (36) Uraicons Sayon remained behind in cultivation and other measures included in the agrominimm. (37)

Constants Rayon

"Supplementary" artificial pollination was carried out on 258 hectures of rre and 623 hectares of lucerne in Constants Rayon. (38)

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